

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

### RFP OVERVIEW WEBINAR Q&A

**Q: My organization is looking to potentially partner with CMH to bring MAT to their local jail. One barrier is coverage of treatment and medications while individuals are in jail as Medicaid does not cover this. Would we be able to cover treatment costs with these funds?**

A: For feedback about specific projects/costs, we would encourage you to submit a concept paper.

**Q: When will the recording of this webinar be made available?**

A: We expect to post the recording to the website next week.

**Q: I just want to confirm, there is no specific guidance on allowable and non-allowable costs?**

A: We have information on allowable costs in our RFP on our website. You can find it here: <https://mihealthfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/2025-Health-Fund-BH-RFP.pdf>

**Q: Will you review and respond to concept papers in order received? Is there incentive to submit those early?**

A: Yes, concept papers will be reviewed and responded to in the order they were received. All concept papers will receive feedback if they are submitted by the due date within three weeks of submission.

**Q: Our project as we currently conceive of it would fall into 2 of the priority areas but not all 4- would that be alright-we could modify to include technology innovation but our past experience suggests for the most hard to reach face to face contacts build more trust!**

A: It is not required that projects align with all 4 priority areas. Projects must align with at least 1 priority area.

**Q: Is it acceptable to build in program development time?**

A: For feedback about specific projects/costs, we would encourage you to submit a concept paper. In general, it is important to detail how the budget aligns with the goal of increasing access to behavioral health services. You can find items excluded from funding consideration on p2 of the RFP at <https://mihealthfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/2025-Health-Fund-BH-RFP.pdf>

**Q: If we submit a concept paper by the due date, is there a specific date we might receive feedback? I'm concerned about the turnaround time to make changes to the proposal if we continue to the full application by May 7th.**

A: All concepts submitted by the deadline (April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5 pm) will receive feedback by April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our goal is to provide feedback within three weeks of receipt, so if you submit earlier, you may receive earlier feedback.

**Q: Are citations expected to support statements made in the concept paper?**

A: If there are key reports referenced in the concept paper, a link to the resource is appreciated. We also understand the concept paper limit is two pages so every statement may not be sourced back to a specific reference

**Q: In previous RFPs there has been an option for a meeting in lieu of a concept paper. Will that be available for this program?**

A: Virtual concept papers are available in our Community Health and Capacity Building grant rounds. The Behavioral Health Initiative does not offer virtual concept papers, however concept papers are optional but strongly encouraged.

**Q: Can salaries be part of the funding requested?**

A: Yes, salaries can be part of the funding request.

**Q: Is this something individual school districts can/should apply for? Or is this more for community agencies and hospitals?**

A: Yes, individual school districts are eligible to apply.

**Q: Would transport to and from appointments qualify as part of the "collaborate care" component?**

A: For feedback about specific projects/costs, we would encourage you to submit a concept paper.

**Q: Will MHEF consider continuing projects they have previously funded?**

A: The Health Fund can invest in projects we have previously supported when they are introducing new or expanding components. However, we are unable to fund ongoing or existing initiatives and operations.

**Q: What are the guideline for the concept paper again?**

A: Concept papers are optional (but strongly encouraged) 1-2-page descriptions of your proposed project. We ask you include a brief overview of the project, the proposed impact, your key collaborative partners and their responsibilities, and a brief overview of the estimated budget. See the [RFP](#) for more information.

**Q: Is it three weeks after the deadline or three weeks after submitted?**

A: All concepts submitted by the deadline (April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5 pm) will receive feedback by April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our goal is to provide feedback within three weeks of receipt, so if you submit earlier, you may receive earlier feedback.

**Q: Is there a rubric for the concept paper**

A: There is not a rubric for the concept paper. However, details to include in the concept paper can be found in the RFP and you can reference our application review criteria to inform your concept paper here or in the RFP as well.

**Q: Is the Health Fund willing to fund new ideas or only ideas that have already been piloted?**

A: We are open to considering new ideas. Demonstrating capacity to implement new ideas are particularly important.

**Q: Should references be included in the concept paper, and if so, does the reference list count toward the page limit?**

A: You're welcome to include references but note that concept papers may not be longer than 2 pages.

**Q: To what extent is program development supported? Could a project only encompass the development stage if it is not yet ready for implementation/evaluation, or does a program need to be implemented in the project?**

A: The Health Fund does sometimes support planning or program development grants.

**Q: Do you have specific guidelines for the concept paper?**

A: Yes, you can find guidelines listed in the RFP: <https://mihealthfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/2025-Health-Fund-BH-RFP.pdf>

**Q: Our proposal is for treatment for substance uses, but not much about mental health. Would it be still eligible for this funding?**

A: Project may focus on treatment for substance use and will be most competitive if they increase access to those services. For additional feedback about specific projects/costs, we would encourage you to submit a concept paper.

**Q: Did I also read somewhere that you are looking for projects that are targeted towards youth & older adults or was that a previous grant round?**

A: Yes, the Health Fund's mission specifically calls out children and seniors and reducing the cost of health care

**Q: You addressed long-term impact, but are you also looking for how programs will be sustained after a grant?**

A: Detailed descriptions of how programs will be sustainable are not required; however, any information or perspective organizations may have regarding plausible ways to achieve sustainability helps provide reviewers with more context. In past grant rounds, we removed a specific question on sustainability from our application in part because we recognize sustainability may look different for each project and organizations may need to utilize grant funds to more fully develop paths to sustainability.

**Q: To confirm, is this Fund's priority to fund organizations that increase access to direct behavioral health services? Or would a more indirect service that includes individuals with behavioral health needs be considered?**

A: Thank you for your question! We will specifically be looking for proposals that have the potential to directly increase access to behavioral health services. For feedback about specific projects/costs, we would encourage you to submit a concept paper. We may need more information on the "indirect service" on a concept paper to provide helpful feedback.

**Q: I saw in the RFP fiscally-sponsored organizations have to have their application submitted by the fiscal sponsor. Do I still need to make my own Flux account? Or do they use their own Flux account and submit on our behalf? Separate comment: I have concerns the fiscal sponsor will not have answers to the application questions that are as intimately informed as my own answers would be since it is my project.**

A: The application would need to be in the fiscal sponsor's name. We have space in the application to provide information about both organizations, and we can set up the application to link contacts from both organizations so you can both work on it. Please email us at [grants@mihealthfund.org](mailto:grants@mihealthfund.org) and we'll be happy to help set you up.

**Q: How much funding is available? How many grants do you anticipate to fund and how many applications do you typically received? Thank you :)**

A: We have approximately \$7 million for the grant round. You can consult our grants database at <https://mihealthfund.org/grant-database> to see how many awards we have made each year. The grant round's overall competitiveness continues to increase.

**Q: Did I also read somewhere that you are looking for projects that are targeted towards youth & older adults or was that a different grant round?**

A: Yes, youth and older adults are referenced in the Health Fund's mission statement.

**Q: I've been keeping an eye out for the Nutrition & Healthy Lifestyles webinar recording. Has that been posted?**

A: We are aiming to have this posted by 3/14.

**Q: Clarification on indirect costs is the max award inclusive of both indirect and direct costs or are indirects on top of max award?**

A: The max award is inclusive of both direct and indirects.

**Q: You will probably get to my question during this financial presentation but will grant awards be allowed to go toward one time purchases such as portions of funding for a mobile health unit?**

A: Thank you for your question! For feedback about specific projects/costs, we would encourage you to submit a concept paper. More details on what aspects of the mobile unit would help provide more helpful feedback.

**Q: Do you need to be a non profit to apply for a grant**

A: Nonprofits, federally recognized Tribes, local units of government, and the State of Michigan are eligible for grants. To be eligible to apply for a grant under this initiative, applicants must:

- Be recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt organization;
- Serve Michigan residents;
- Have a current certified financial audit or independently reviewed financial statements; and
- Have at least one FTE.

**Q: Understanding that MHEF Behavioral Health focuses on children and older adults: (a) how is "older adult" operationalized? and (b) do you recognize the enhancement of the mental health of caregivers as a way to address the mental health of children?**

A: We do not have a set definition of "older adult" determined by a specific age, but aim to be flexible in evaluating proposals for their fit based on the project context and the specific population served. Regarding the second part of your question, we recommend you submit a concept paper to receive feedback on the specific intervention you are proposing.

**Q: Can churches apply for this?**

A: Nonprofits, federally recognized Tribes, local units of government, and the State of Michigan are eligible for grants. To be eligible to apply for a grant under this initiative, applicants must:

- Be recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt organization;
- Serve Michigan residents;
- Have a current certified financial audit or independently reviewed financial statements; and
- Have at least one FTE.

**Q: You mentioned that the organization must have at least 1 FTE—assume that means Full time Employee. My org has 1 full time employee—but not a "W-2" employee, but as**

**a contractor..... There are several part time contracted employees—would we qualify to apply for the grant?**

A: Organizations much have at least one full-time paid employee or one full-time equivalent (e.g. two half-time paid employees). For eligibility questions related to a specific organization, please email us at [grants@mihealthfund.org](mailto:grants@mihealthfund.org).

**Q: If part of the project is opening a recovery hub in a community that does not currently have one, is the rent of that space considered direct or indirect?**

A: Rent expenses would be considered indirect costs.

**Q: Could you please clarify whether applications that do not involve direct collaboration with community partners, but instead focus on modeling benefits of policy level changes using secondary data, are eligible for consideration under this funding opportunity?**

A: Thank you for your question! For feedback about specific projects/costs, we would encourage you to submit a concept paper.

**Q: Is there any guidance on how to develop a budget when the proposed work will occur between two universities? I'm thinking about the indirect costs and how it would be managed between two locations.**

A: For questions and requests for guidance about a specific scenario, please email us at [grants@mihealthfund.org](mailto:grants@mihealthfund.org). But in general, we expect that the indirect costs line item of the budget would include all indirect expenses charged to the grant by the applicant and any project partners.

**Q: Also, if your 501 c 3 is not specifically a "health care" non-profit, but it is developing substance abuse services for the population it serves. Do the applicants have to be "health care" organizations?**

A: Applicants do not have to be "health care" organizations. However, your organization must be tax-exempt and submit a health-focused project targeting Michigan residents.

**Q: Are one time purchases, such as a mobile health unit asked about above, regarded as capital gain and not allowable?**

A: Capital projects and vehicle purchases are not supported by the Health Fund. For feedback about specific projects/costs, we would encourage you to submit a concept paper.

**Q: Would we be allowed to serve clients that may be undocumented?**

A: Yes

**Q: Have Community Substance and Suicide Prevention Coalition's applied for this in the past?**

A: Yes, we have supported specific efforts of local prevention coalitions.

**Q: If we collaborate with a hospital and they are not interested in getting funding through this grant, is that allowed?**

A: Yes, key collaborative partners are not required to be directly financially supported by the grant award.

**Q: If you already are in a grant cycle with the Health Fund for a different program, can you still apply to this grant?**

A: Yes, you can apply to this grant regardless of a current ongoing grant project in a different program.

**Q: Are college-based/university settings proposed project covered in this round?**

A: Yes, college-based/university settings would be eligible in this grant round.

**Q: Are these opportunities available on an annual basis?**

A: Yes, the Behavioral Health grant round is available annually.

**Q: Is this an annual grant mechanism such that one could build & plan for next spring if they're not ready currently?**

A: Yes, this is an annual grant program opportunity.

**Q: Can we propose to hire someone with lived experience to serve as a facilitator?**

A: Thank you for your question! For feedback about specific projects/costs, we would encourage you to submit a concept paper.

**Q: Can MHEF funding be used to serve transgender clients seeking mental health care, or affirming care?**

A: Yes.

**Q: Along the line of undocumented. Can the funds be used to pay for mental health services provided to undocumented persons**

A: Yes

**Q: While there is a focus on elders and youth, is increasing access for uninsured adults 18-65 also a priority?**

A: The grant program focuses generally on improving access to effective mental health and substance use disorder services for Michigan residents. The review criteria also references health equity by evaluating how the project benefits the populations most affected by the health issue. The more a project aligns with the Health Fund's mission

could make the project more competitive, but we recommend submitting a concept paper for more complete feedback.

**Q: If awarded a grant, what is the reporting process like? How often are reports due and what do you ask for in each report?**

A: Reporting depends on the length of the project period. General patterns include a phone check-in every six months and a written report (either an interim or final report) every 12 months.

**Q: Can we submit two different concept papers? different ideas, same PI ?**

A: Yes, you can submit multiple concept papers and receive individual feedback on each.

**Q: What's the email for questions regarding FTE requirements and what that might look like? Can the FTE be stipend or retired community advocate etc...**

A: Please email us at [grants@mihealthfund.org](mailto:grants@mihealthfund.org) to receive guidance about specific eligibility questions.

**Q: Can we view this webinar at a later date?**

A: Yes, we will post a recording of the webinar on our website and also share a link in a follow up email in the next few days.

**Q: What about addressing mental health issues in schools? Is this something that could be funded with this grant?**

A: Thank you for your question! For feedback about specific projects/costs, we would encourage you to submit a concept paper.

**Q: Can an organization submit more than one concept paper/application?**

A: Yes, you can submit multiple concept papers and receive individual feedback on each.

**Q: How often is this opportunity offered annually? I want to submit a concept paper, but I'm concerned about the turnaround time from concept paper to receiving feedback since we will submit the concept paper with a draft budget, but preparing a final budget will take more time to do.**

A: This opportunity is open once a year. The draft budget for the concept paper can be an estimate. We understand if this estimate changes in the full proposal.

**Q: Would the grant support ABA services in the school setting, working to keep kids enrolled in schools?**

A: Thank you for your question! For feedback about specific projects/costs, we would encourage you to submit a concept paper. In your paper it would be important for you to address how it increases access to behavioral health services.



**Q: Can FTE requirement be split among multiple providers to equal 1 FTE or can funds be used to hire someone for 1 FTE to support the project**

A: We do not have a specific FTE requirement for project activities. The FTE requirement refers to eligibility of the organization. In order to be eligible to apply for a grant, organizations must have at least one full-time paid employee or one full-time equivalent (e.g. two half-time paid employees).

**Q: the focus you mention is increasing access to MH and SUD services, but could it also be enhancing the quality of care provided? So participants have access but the quality (and outcomes) are suboptimal.**

A: Thank you for your question! For feedback about specific projects/costs, we would encourage you to submit a concept paper.

**Q: Do you have to be a 501(c)(3) to submit?**

A: Nonprofits, federally recognized Tribes, local units of government, and the State of Michigan are eligible for grants. To be eligible to apply for a grant under this initiative, applicants must:

- Be recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt organization;
- Serve Michigan residents;
- Have a current certified financial audit or independently reviewed financial statements; and
- Have at least one FTE.

**Q: Do we need to avoid using DEI terms**

A: The Health Fund supports work that advances health equity and addresses disparities for individuals who experience barriers impacting their access to behavioral health care. We do not place restrictions on the language applicants may use when describing their proposed work.

**Q: Is there a budget template? It was mentioned but I can't find the link in the chat.**

A: Yes, we have a budget template available here: <https://mihealthfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Health-Fund-Budget-Form-202501.xlsx>

Please reference these slides for more information on crafting a budget:

<https://mihealthfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Crafting-Budgets-Webinar-Slides.pdf>

You can also reference this video for more information on crafting a budget. These resources will also be available with the recording after the webinar:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CxIWcwLCg\\_s&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CxIWcwLCg_s&feature=youtu.be)

**Q: Is this webinar available to view at a later date?**

A: Yes, the webinar slides and recording will be available.

**Q: Can we apply this cycle if we were awarded this same opportunity last year? (Behavioral Health Initiative) The proposal would be for a different initiative than the one previously awarded.**

A: Yes, you can apply this cycle regardless of if you have a current grant with the Health Fund.

**Q: Would you support attending a conference that is relevant to behavioral health from a cultural perspective but that is offered out of state?**

A: You may include project-related conference work in budgets. If you are a Health Fund grant partner we also offer conference scholarships, subject to application. More information can be found here: <https://mihealthfund.org/grantmaking/attend-present>

**Q: Can treatment costs can be covered with these funds for people who are uninsured or underinsured.**

A: For feedback about specific projects/costs, we would encourage you to submit a concept paper.

**Q: Can the grant funds be used to fund a training program like an internship or post-doctoral fellowship**

A: Thank you for your question! For feedback about specific projects/costs, we would encourage you to submit a concept paper, emphasizing how the concept innovatively increases access to behavioral health services

**Q: Are we allowed to use terms such as racial bias, diversity, equity, and inclusion in our applications? And are we allowed to target a specific racial/ethnic group?**

A: Yes, please use terms that are most relevant to your project. Yes, we ask applicants to consider serving populations most disproportionately impacted.

**Q: Can we cover transportation costs of participants in our proposals?**

A: Yes, generally we can support transportation costs for participants. For feedback about specific projects/costs, we would encourage you to submit a concept paper.

**Q: Is this grant open annually?**

A: Yes